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Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

### WEATHER.

- Western Oregon, Western Washington—Probably occasional light rain. Westerly winds.
- Eastern Oregon, Southern Idaho—Light snow, followed by fair.

### MISUSE OF OPTIONS.

The principle of securing options on saleable real estate is as old as the business itself, and is accepted everywhere, but the misuse of the method, especially in this neighborhood, is beginning to be so pronounced and reactionary as to be a menace to the business. If every real estate dealer who holds an option would put the bonded land before the people for sale and do it promptly and openly by due course of advertising, and not hold it "under the rose" for months and years and render the ultimate sale of the property dubious and unsatisfactory to both bonder and bondee, it would be a very different thing for Astoria and her contiguous cities and towns. There can be no open, noticeable activity in a real estate market, the transactions in which are conducted on the basis of secret and hidden agencies and values; it is the open, candid, busy, bustling agent that makes the market and maintains it at a standard all men may realize and be attracted to; and this is what Astoria needs. She has had far too much "cup-board" dealing in reality. She needs the spur of publicity to invite attention and investment, and the sooner her property holders recognize this and give their options brief periods of duration, and upon big, actual, representative option-fees, the better for them and for the men and firms whose business it is to buy and sell real estate. There is nothing gained by secret and surreptitious methods.

### A BUSINESS SESSION.

For once in the history of the state, at least in late years, the legislature is showing signs of realizing what it was sent to Salem for. There is a business tone to the session that means much if it is sincere and enduring. The obliteration of "the pass" will have a tendency to keep the senators and representatives at their places and their work, and the frequent interruptions and idle junketings and their useless day and two day adjournments will be minimized, to the acceleration of real and legitimate business. The ordained disappearance of the long standing disgrace known as "House Bill No. 104" the beggarly subterfuge for reckless drinking at the very state-house itself, is another element that will contribute to a sober, industrious, fruitful session, and to all this is added, the imperative demand of the people for some wise and honest results. From the grist of over 100 bills already introduced, there is a fine percentage of measures that mean something beside graft and private advantage, and it is devoutly hoped everywhere, that these signs, at least, will not fall in the prevalent bad weather.

### THE WEATHER CINCH.

It is beginning to dawn upon hapless citizen that there is a wonderful and adroit timeliness in the arrival of the car-shortage, the fuel famine and

the cold snap. Of course, it were idle to try to line the things up as pre-ordained by man alone; that he has taken his usual advantage, goes without saying. It is the killing and exhausting strain on the popular purse and patience, that is lending new zest to the plea of the socialist. Business conditions are rapidly assuming a phase of method and appositeness in this man's country that contributes hugely to the undoing of human faith in human honesty, and unless there is a change for the better, from sources that give assurance, the temper of the "common herd" is likely to break bounds the offense and the fiercer. Such weather conditions as now prevail, serve to accentuate the meanness of the commercial spirit and prove its almost irresistible sway.

### A POLITICAL TRICK.

The Democrats are making the most of the few promises made them by President Haines of the Oregon Senate. Undue stress is laid upon each and every word he uttered before his election to the chair and his meagerest promise distorted to the amplified form of a convicting pledge. It is the way with politicians of Democratic persuasion, and he had better remained satisfied with his seat on the floor of that chamber than to have risked the odium they are preparing, and will rake him with. It is a dangerous expedient to use, this reliance upon Democratic consistency or good faith.

### VOLCANIC NEIGHBORS.

One by one the year's seismic record is involving the cities that lie in the volcanic belts of the earth. San Francisco, Valparaiso, the South Sea Islands, and Jamaica, all are in the midst of volcanic latitude, and the world will not be surprised to hear that Naples is next in the path of peril and attack. The stress and regularity of the "temblors" are horribly suggestive, and there is no likelihood of a cessation from the grewsome fatalities until the full chain of volcanic action is completed.

### EDITORIAL SALAD.

A kettle with a smoky bottom will take as long again to boil as a clean one.

In a jealous woman there is only one thing that is as long as her memory, and that is her tongue.

A number of girls, the daughters of Boone county, Mo., farmers, have been organized into a military company. They are very proficient in the manual of arms.

To keep a pair of corsets perfectly fresh and clean they should be washed every two or three weeks. The operation is simple and will not injure the shape of the cut.

The Colorado women fought, fumed and fussed until they got woman's suffrage and then as soon as they got it, decided they didn't want it. Isn't that just like a woman?

The fashion upholsterers have decreed that the winter girl must be "small in the waist, full in the hips, high-busted and broad-shouldered." Architects are now at work upon the designs.

Water is not only good for the health, but it is a successful beauty aid. The habit of drinking six or seven glasses of water a day will sometimes clear the complexion without other help.

Some Massachusetts young women have organized and pledged themselves not to marry any young man whose salary is less than \$30 a week. It looks like making matrimony a mere matter of money.

It has been necessary to employ extra guards at the New Jersey penitentiary to keep women from flirting with the convicts. It will be safe, however, to continue to believe that the world would soon go to the bad if there were no women in it.

Women as inventors and patentees? Sure. The United States patent office is not a repository for masculine ideas alone. The doors of that institution were scarcely hung on their hinges when the government swung them wide open to the first woman inventor who applied for admission.

Are you tired, fagged out, nervous, sleepless, feel mean? Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea strengthens your nerves, aids digestion, brings refreshing sleep. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets.

For sale by Frank Hart.

## NOT AGAINST BRYAN

William's Denial Serious Check to Senator Culberson's Boom.

### DEMOCRATS DO NOT UNITE

House Leader Says Although Opposed to Nebraska's Federal Ownership of Railroads Scheme He Will Not Oppose Him.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—John Sharp Williams' declaration that he has not entered into any combination which has for its purpose the prevention of the nomination of William Jennings Bryan for President, has thrown the anti-Bryan camp of Congressional Democrats into confusion, and has caused corresponding joy among the followers of the Nebraskan.

The mere denial by Mr. Williams that he had entered into such a combine would not mean so much, but the Democratic House leader accompanied his denial by what is accepted as a declaration in Bryan's favor. In the interview which he gives out he requests what he said on a former occasion that: "First, the Democratic convention ought to vote down the idea of Federal ownership of railroads and that—this idea voted down and out of the way—Mr. Bryan would be the strongest candidate for the presidency."

Not only does Mr. Williams deny that he has entered into any anti-Bryan movement, but he makes the positive assertion that he will not do so. "There is not one word of accuracy or justice in connecting me with any factional movement of any description in the Democratic party," he says, "especially not with any movement inimical to Mr. Bryan. I differ from him about a great matter of public policy, and shall, of course, support my view and oppose his upon that question, but I neither have entered into, nor shall enter into, any anti-Bryan movement, and I do not desire that the weight of my name—as little weight as it carries—should be used for that purpose."

"I shall make it my work now, as I have made it my work hitherto, to harmonize discordant elements within the party where they are found to exist and try to bring the party into line, united and strong."

In concluding his interview Mr. Williams makes a strong plea for party harmony. "I wish to God," declares the Mississippi statesman, "that Democrats would quit fighting one another and unite in fighting against bad politics and bad tendencies and for fundamental Democratic ideas."

"The weakness of the party consists in the fact that two extreme wings seem more bent on hurting one another than upon the success of those right governmental measures about which all are agreed—the revision and reduction of the tariff, the destruction of the trusts, the abatement of corruption in public life and in elections."

strong opposition to further centralization of government in the Federal hands and a wise and frugal administration of public affairs, with a view to leaving the money of the people, as far as possible, in the hands of the people."

The emphatic disclaimer of Mr. Williams is regarded by many as a serious set-back to the movement to bring about the nomination of a Southern man for President. Sentiment among those who favor a Southern nominee had crystallized about Senator Culberson, of Texas, and it was believed his boom was making substantial progress. But if Mr. Williams is not a party to the movement, and will not become such, its chances of succeeding are materially lessened. He has a stronger personal following, perhaps, than any other Southern Democrat, and if he winds up finally in the Bryan ranks he will take a great part of that following with him.

There is a disposition among Southerners in Congress to criticize Mr. Williams for coming out with so emphatic a declaration at this time. He could have made it clear that he was not a party to any combine, they say, without practically committing himself to the Nebraska candidate. A good many Northern and Eastern Democrats were ready to join the movement for a Southern candidate, but if the South cannot agree on a man, they contend, it is useless to go ahead with the project.

"And Roosevelt! the President," said Mr. Sinclair, "realizes that it is desirable. He knows that if he does not, Bryan will. The President is therefore determined to curb the syndicates. That is the Socialistic idea."

"Mr. Carnegie expresses the belief that a millionaire ought to share his wealth with the poor, isn't that the purest Socialism?"

### THE ORIGINAL.

Foley & Co., Chicago, originated Honey and Tar as a throat and lung remedy, and on account of the great merit and popularity of Foley's Honey and Tar, many imitations are offered for the genuine. These worthless imitations have similar sounding names. Beware of them. The genuine Foley's Honey and Tar is in a yellow package. Ask for it and refuse any substitute. It is the best remedy for coughs and colds. T. P. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

### ALL THE WORLD

Is a stage and Ballard's Snow Liniment plays a most prominent part. It has no superior for Rheumatism, stiff joints, cuts, sprains, and all pains. Buy it, try it, and you will always use it. Anybody who has used Ballard's Snow Liniment is a living proof of what it does. Buy a trial bottle, 25c, 50c and \$1.00. Hart's drug store.

### Bad Stomach Trouble Cured.

Having been sick for the past two years with a bad stomach, a friend gave me a dose of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. They did me so much good that I bought a bottle of them and have used twelve bottles in all. Today I am well of a bad stomach trouble.—Mrs. John Lowe, Cooper, Maine. These tablets are for sale by Frank Hart and leading druggists.

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Good evening, sir! Has old King Winter prodded you sharply enough the past week to remind you that he never forgets? Has he found you with a shabby OVERCOAT?—worn thin in places? Has he found a chink in your UNDERWEAR?



If you are, many pleasant surprises await you. They are simply "stunners." No printer's ink through newspapers can do justice in conveying to you what they are. But come and see them. You'll be glad you did. We can't mention 'em all here—space forbids, and then, as lots are reduced, new bargains are produced and thrown onto the EXTRA SPECIAL BARGAIN TABLES. "KEEP TAB" OF THE SPECIALS WE ADVERTISE—and see how many more you find when you come to the store. Our business is to keep the business we get. Specials for tomorrow and Monday:

Boy's Kersey Storm Coats, ages 6 to 12 years, regular price \$5.00, Special at \$2.70  
Child's Covert Box Coats, 6 to 10, regular price \$5.50, Special at \$2.85  
Child's Blue Reefers, regular price, \$3.00, Special at \$1.90  
Boy's Overcoats Broken Line, 4 to 8, regular price \$4.00 to \$7.50, Special at \$2.35  
Child's Russian Blouse Suits, Knickerbocker Pants 3 to 8, worth \$4.00, Special at \$2.70  
Boys Jacket and Pants Suits, odds and ends, 65 suits in this lot, ages 6 to 16, values \$4.00 to \$6.50, Special at \$2.85  
Boys Jacket and Pants Suits of Cheviot materials, 6 to 12 years, \$2.50 to \$4.00 values at \$1.45  
95 Mens Suits in broken lines, 1, 2, and 3 suits of a kind, Cheviots and Worsted, \$9.50 to \$11 values at \$6.45  
Mens Fancy Worsteds Suits, good values, late models, \$15.00 to \$16.50 values, Special at \$10.85  
Mens Blue Kersey Overcoats in broken lines, \$8.50 and \$10. values, Special at \$7.20  
Mens 46 in Heavy Cheviot Overcoats, \$13.50 to \$16.50 values, Special at \$11.45  
Mens Rain Coats, Mackintoshes, Cravenettes, etc, odd lots, one and two of a size, \$10. to \$15.00 values, Special at \$8.35

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